<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Claims 1-55 (canceled).

Claim 56 (original): A frozen cooling fluid monitoring system, comprising:

a first probe immersed in a cooling fluid;

a second probe immersed in the cooling fluid;

a ground probe immersed in the cooling fluid;

a controller coupled with the first probe and the second probe, wherein the controller

outputs a pulse signal received at the first probe and the second probe, whereby, when both the

first probe and the second probe are submerged in frozen cooling fluid, the controller receives a

pulse signal indicating a sufficient amount of frozen cooling fluid, and, when the first probe is

submerged in frozen cooling fluid and the second probe is immersed in unfrozen cooling fluid,

the pulse signal is attenuated to ground via the ground probe indicating to the controller an

insufficient amount of frozen cooling fluid.

Claim 57 (currently amended): A method of controlling a refrigeration unit of a beverage

dispenser, comprising the steps of:

providing a beverage dispenser, comprising:

a refrigeration unit including a frozen cooling fluid monitoring system,[;] and

an electronic control system, comprising:

a refrigeration control to permit interfacing with the refrigeration unit,[;]

a microcontroller for controlling the refrigeration control, and

a program memory including a refrigeration state machine for controlling

the microcontroller, wherein the refrigeration state machine includes an off state,

an unfrozen probes state, an on state, a frozen probes state;

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calling the refrigeration state machine to assume control of the microcontroller;

deactivating in the off state the refrigeration unit via the refrigeration control;

changing from the off state to the unfrozen probes state;

determining in the unfrozen probes state via the frozen cooling fluid monitoring system when there is insufficient frozen cooling fluid;

changing from the unfrozen probes state to the on state when the frozen cooling fluid monitoring system registers that there is insufficient frozen cooling fluid;

activating in the on state the refrigeration unit via the refrigeration control;

changing from the on state to the frozen probes state;

determining in the frozen probes state via the frozen cooling fluid monitoring system when there is sufficient frozen cooling fluid;

changing from the frozen probes state to the off state when the frozen cooling fluid monitoring system registers that there is sufficient frozen cooling fluid; and

relinquishing control of the microcontroller when there has been no change of state, immediately upon a change of state, or upon the expiration of a preset time period.

Claim 58 (original): The method of controlling a refrigeration unit of a beverage dispenser according to claim 57, further comprising the steps of:

providing the refrigeration state machine including an off timer state;

activating in the off state an off timer;

changing from the off state to the off timer state prior to changing to the unfrozen probes state;

determining in the off timer state when the off timer expires; and

changing from the off timer state to the unfrozen probes state upon the expiration of the

off timer.

Claim 59 (original): The method of controlling a refrigeration unit of a beverage dispenser according to claim 57, further comprising the steps of:

activating in the on state an on timer;

determining in the frozen probes state if the on timer has expired; and

changing from the frozen probes state to the off state upon the expiration of the on timer.

Claims 60-62 (canceled).